

CHAPTER 1.1.

NOTIFICATION OF DISEASES AND PROVISION OF EPIDEMIOLOGICAL INFORMATION

Article 1.1.1.

For the purposes of the *Aquatic Code* and in terms of Articles 5, 9 and 10 of the OIE Organic Statutes, every Member Country shall recognise the right of the *Headquarters* to communicate directly with the *Competent Authority* of its *territory or territories*.

All *notifications* and all information sent by the OIE to the *Competent Authority* shall be regarded as having been sent to the country concerned and all *notifications* and all information sent to the OIE by the *Competent Authority* shall be regarded as having been sent by the country concerned.

Article 1.1.2.

- 1) Member Countries shall make available to other Member Countries, through the OIE, whatever information is necessary to minimise the spread of important *diseases of aquatic animals* and their *pathogenic agents* and to assist in achieving better world-wide control of these *diseases*.
- 2) To achieve this, Member Countries shall comply with the *notification* requirements specified in Article 1.1.3. and Article 1.1.3.bis.
- 3) To assist in the clear and concise exchange of information, reports shall conform as closely as possible to the current OIE *disease* reporting format.
- 4) The detection of the pathogenic agent of a listed disease in an aquatic animal should be reported, even in the absence of clinical signs. Recognising that scientific knowledge concerning the relationship between *pathogenic agents* and clinical *disease* is constantly developing and that the presence of an infectious agent does not necessarily imply the presence of clinical *disease*, Member Countries shall ensure through their reports that they comply with the spirit and intention of point 1 above. This means that the detection of an infectious agent of a listed disease in an aquatic animal should be reported, even in the absence of clinical signs of disease.
- 5) In addition to notifying findings in accordance with Article 1.1.3. and 1.1.3.bis, Member Countries shall also provide information on the measures taken to prevent the spread of *diseases*. Information shall include include, including possible quarantine measures and restrictions on the movement of aquatic animals, aquatic animal products, biological products and other miscellaneous objects which could by their nature be responsible for transmission of disease. In the case of *diseases* transmitted by vectors, the measures taken against such vectors shall also be specified.

Article 1.1.3.

The *Competent Authority* shall, under the responsibility of the Delegate, send to the *Headquarters* of the OIE:

- 1) in accordance with relevant provisions in the *disease-specific* chapters, *notification*, through the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) or by fax or e-mail within 24 hours of any of the following events:
 - a) first occurrence of a *listed disease* in a country, a *zone* or a *compartment*;
 - b) re-occurrence of a *listed disease* in a country, a *zone* or a *compartment* following a the final report that declared an the outbreak ended;
 - c) first occurrence of a new strain of a pathogenic agent of a *listed disease* new to in a country, a

zone or a compartment,

- d) a sudden and unexpected change ~~increase~~ in the distribution, or increase in incidence or virulence of, or morbidity or mortality of caused by the aetiological pathogenic agent of a listed disease, ~~prevalent~~ present within a country, a zone or a compartment,
- e) ~~evidence of change in the epidemiology~~ first occurrence of a listed disease, in a new unusual host species (including host range, pathogenicity, strain) in particular if there is a zoonotic impact;
- f) ~~an emerging disease with significant morbidity or mortality, or zoonotic potential;~~

In deciding whether findings justify immediate *notification* (within 24 hours), Member Countries must ensure that they comply with the obligations of Chapters 5.1. and 5.2. (especially Article 5.1.1.), to report developments that may have implications for *international trade*.

- 2) Weekly reports subsequent to a *notification* under point 1 above, to provide further information on the evolution of the event which justified the *notification*. These reports should continue until the *disease* has been eradicated or the situation has become sufficiently stable so that six-monthly reporting under point 3 will satisfy the obligation of the Member Country to the OIE; ~~in any for each event notified case,~~ a final report on the event should be submitted.
- 3) Six-monthly reports on the absence or presence and evolution of *listed diseases* and information of epidemiological significance to other Member Countries.
- 4) Annual reports concerning any other information of significance to other Member Countries.

~~Although Member Countries are only required to notify listed diseases and emerging diseases according to points 1 to 4 above, they are encouraged to inform the OIE of other animal health events of epidemiological significance.~~

Article 1.1.3.bis

Veterinary **Competent** Authorities shall, under the responsibility of the Delegate, send to the *Headquarters*:

- 1) a notification through WAHIS or by fax or e-mail, when an *emerging disease* has been detected in a country, a zone or a compartment.
- 2) periodic reports subsequent to a notification of ~~for~~ an *emerging disease*, as described under point 1. These should continue until:
 - a) the disease has been eradicated; or
 - b) the situation becomes sufficiently stable; or
 - c) sufficient scientific information is available to determine whether it meets the criteria for listing.

Article 1.1.4.

- 1) The *Competent Authority* of a country in which an *infected zone or compartment* was located shall inform the *Headquarters* when this *zone or compartment* is free from the *disease*.
- 2) An *infected zone or compartment* for a particular *disease* shall be considered as such until a period exceeding the *infective period* specified in the *Aquatic Code* has elapsed after the last reported case and when full prophylactic and appropriate aquatic animal health measures have been applied to prevent possible reappearance or spread of the *disease*. These measures will be found in detail in various disease-specific chapters of the *Aquatic Code*.³⁾ A Member Country may be considered to regain freedom from a specific *disease* when all relevant conditions given in the *Aquatic Code* have been fulfilled.
- 4) The *Competent Authority* of a Member Country which sets up one or several *free zones* or *free compartments* shall inform the *Headquarters*, giving necessary details, including the criteria on which the free status is based, the requirements for maintaining the status and indicating clearly the location of the *zones or compartments* on a map of the territory of the Member Country.

Article 1.1.5.

- 1) Although Member Countries are only required to notify *listed diseases*, and *emerging diseases*, they are encouraged to inform the OIE of other important **aquatic** animal health events.

- 2) The *Headquarters* shall communicate by e-mail or World Animal Health Information Database (WAHID) to *Competent Authorities* all *notifications* received as provided in Articles 1.1.2. to 1.1.4. and other relevant information.

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